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those elements of procedure that offer such serviceable tools to the majority in summarily over-riding the minority. It is not to be objected that he has pointed out that a potentially restrictive procedure is inevitable in a body of the size and character of our lower house. But it does not seem impossible that statesmen may yet develop a procedure which will be able to circumvent mere selfishly partisan obstruction, and at the same time leave opportunity for individual responsibility and truly deliberative discussion.

We miss also in these lectures an explanation of the determining influence which the development of procedure has had in modifying the nature of our government as to source and method of political control; to what extent, for example, the speaker, or the committees, are agencies of party government, or means of Congressional supremacy along certain lines.

However, in the final chapter, on "Results," we have interesting criticism upon certain other tendencies—notably, the extravagance of Congress, and the extension of executive power in legislation. Furthermore, his argument in support of a suggestion for the admission of cabinet members to the floors of Congress, with all essential privileges of members, save that of voting, seems solid.

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**McFarland, Raymond.** *A History of the New England Fisheries.* Pp. 457. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1911.

Few phases of industry in this country have had greater historical significance than that which attaches to the New England fishing interests. For New England itself the fisheries were long of great economic importance, and for some large districts they still exert much influence over the life of the people. The history of some of the larger phases of the industry as the whale fishery, has been told by various authors, but no one has heretofore covered the many lesser branches. Unavailable government reports have been about the only literature on these subjects.

This volume begins with a survey of the fishing grounds of the North Atlantic, discusses briefly the pre-colonial fishing in those waters, and then traces the history of the industry down to the present time. Special chapters are devoted to the fisheries for herring, shell fish, mackerel and cod, to the methods of inshore and of deep sea fishing, to the decadence of deep sea fishing, to the evolution of the modern fishing vessel, and to the century old fisheries question. Maps showing various fishing grounds and the privileges acquired by the treaty of 1818 supplement the text. There is a bibliography of nearly thirty pages, an appendix presenting various tables of statistics, and a very welcome addition of the award of the Hague tribunal on the Atlantic coast fisheries question.

Out of a tremendous mass of detail, from records and sources not always readily available, the author has added a most interesting volume to the studies in the history of this country. The student of history or of economic

development should find it very helpful, while the average reader, for whom it is really intended, will find its pages far from being dull.

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**Reid, G. Archdall.** *The Laws of Heredity.* Pp. ix, 548. Price, \$5.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

A few years ago I had the opportunity of making mention in this book department of a volume by Dr. Reid, "Principles of Heredity." In many ways this later work is a decided advance on the older. In fact I know no recent volume in the biological field in which there is a clearer perception of the far-reaching influences of the newer facts upon social policies, nor one in which so many different questions of fact are discussed. I do not say that all of Dr. Reid's hypotheses will stand, but they do make one think—no mean accomplishment incidentally.

The author is not presenting studies of new laboratory experiments, but writes as an observer. To the defense of these methods he devotes too much attention. Our own space does not permit any detailed analysis of the author's arguments and a brief summary of some of his conclusions must suffice.

"Except actual injuries . . . all the characters of living beings result from an interaction between the hereditary tendencies or potentialities of the individual and stimuli which awaken them to activity." . . . "I have roughly grouped under the head of nutriment all stimuli save use and injury." Present biology is wrong in distinguishing *inborn* and *acquired* characters. "The so-called acquirements arise under the stimulus of use or injury: the so-called inborn characters under other stimuli, especially that of nutriment." Hence "the characters which arise under the stimulus of use or injury in the parents are not reproduced in the child under the stimulus of nutriment." In his opinion natural selection has played the great role and he does not think that Mendel's discoveries, or the mutation theory are of great importance. He would emphasize *retrogressive* variation as over against the *progressive* so much discussed by other writers.

This biological side is developed in the first ten chapters. Thereafter the author turns to human beings to see what evidence is offered and what programs may be suggested. Disease, alcohol, idealism, mind and body, memory, intemperance and insanity, and education are among the topics treated, in suggestive fashion.

The main conclusion of the book with reference to the laws of heredity is: "of these laws, if any of them are real laws, the most important from the scientific standpoint, because the most basic, is the generalization that the vast majority of variations are under the immediate control of natural selection, and are therefore spontaneous in the sense that they arise independently of the direct action of the environment, and that on these spontaneous variations only is evolution built; for they only are products of the